



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ  
285 W. National Drive  
Newark OH  
43055-5298**

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

**Our Church Staff**

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

[stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com)

Office: 740-323-2854

Office Administrator

Anita Chirdon

Office Assistant

Kim Workman

[stjohnsunited@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

Organist & Choir Dir.

Todd Baldosser

[scarlatti35@hotmail.com](mailto:scarlatti35@hotmail.com)

Christian Education Director

Julie Kroah

[stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net)

Sexton

Mike Dooley

[Mikedooley537@gmail.com](mailto:Mikedooley537@gmail.com)

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

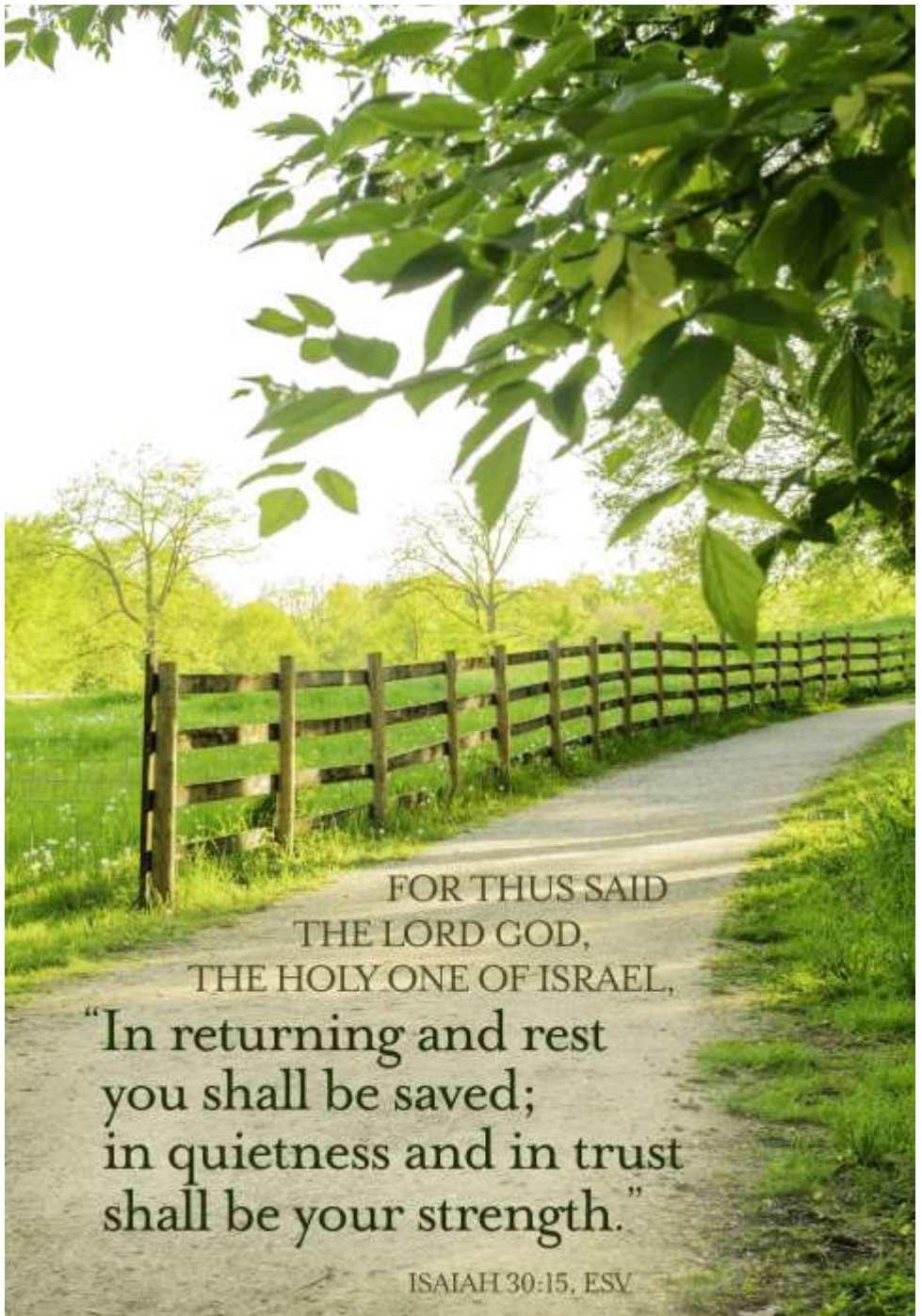
[raswartz1231@aol.com](mailto:raswartz1231@aol.com) &

[stjohnsunited@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

*Rooted in the Evangelical  
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope  
in a Time of Chaos*

*So We May All Be One*



***May 17, 2026  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Graduation & Appreciation Sunday***

**Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.**

May 17, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

## Announcements & Greetings

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**Prelude**                    “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” Morris                    Todd Baldosser

**\*Opening Hymn**                    “O Jesus, I Have Promised”                    **No. 612**  
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1)                    **O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**
  
- 2)                    **O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.**
  
- 4)                    **O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader:                    Today is a day especially created for us to find peace and hope

**All:                    In the midst of our hectic lives, we surely need such a time as  
this**

Leader:                    Come, let us rest in the Lord

**All:                    Our souls long for God’s refreshing love**

Leader:                    Let the demands of the week melt away in God’s Presence

**All:                    Refresh and restore us, O Lord, we pray**

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All:                    Holy and Loving God, our companion and source, shower us with  
Your presence, shelter us in Your Sanctuary, shield us with Your  
peace. Open our receptivity to Your word, wisdom and way.  
May our worship honor Your Name and draw us nearer to You  
and our neighbors. Be glorified in our midst, as we exalt Your  
mighty Name with this prayer You taught us!...**

**\*Please stand if you are able**

***\*The Lord's Prayer –***

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**No. 35**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith - The Nicene Creed, A.D. 325 (*Traditional Version*)**

**We believe in One God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of  
all things visible and invisible**

**And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the  
Father before all ages,**

**God from God,**

**Light from Light,**

**True God from True God,**

**Begotten not made;**

**of the same essence as the Father.**

**Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and our salvation; He came down from Heaven and became  
incarnate by the Holy Spirit. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He  
suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again. He ascended into  
Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in  
Glory to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds  
from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped  
and glorified.**

**We believe in the one true Holy and Apostolic Christian Church. We affirm  
one Baptism. We look forward to the resurrection from the dead and the  
life of the world to come. Amen**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer Response**                    **“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”**                    **No. 306**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,  
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.**

## **Honoring Our Graduates**

## **Honoring Our Volunteers**

**Scripture Reading**                    James 5: 16                    Jeff Conner

**Scripture Reading**                    Isaiah 30: 15

**Sermon**                    “How to Use Prayer in Daily Life”                    Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

**Hymn**                    **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**                    **No. 576**  
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1)            **My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.**
- 2)            **May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.**
- 3)            **While life’s dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow’s tears away;  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

## **Invitation for Faithful Giving**

**Offertory**                    “Pavane” Faure                    Todd Baldosser

**\*Doxology**                    **No. 46**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Offering**

**All: Majestic God, Your love is a shelter of peace and hope. You calm our fears and nourish our dreams. Accept these tithes and offerings as signs of our joy and trust. May they be used to meet the needs of our neighbors both near and far and to draw all people to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen**

**\*Closing Hymn "They'll Know We are Christians" No. 494**

- 1) **Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain.  
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.**
  
- 3) **Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall dwell with God forevermore,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Please join us in the singing of the Congregational Benediction**

**Go Now In Peace/Never be afraid/God will go with you/Each hour of ev'ry  
Day/Go now in Faith/Steadfast, strong and true/Know He will guide you in  
all you do. Go now in Love/And show you believe/Reach out to others/So  
all the world can see/God will be there/Watching from above/Go now in  
Peace/In Faith and in Love. Amen/Amen/Amen.**

CCL#2548454

**Postlude "Serenade for Strings" Tchaikovsky Todd Baldosser**

**Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week**

**"The key to success is longevity"**

**Coach J.D. Graham**

**Newark, Ohio**

**Dr. Swisher's message next week:**

Sunday, May 24, 2026

“Remembering”

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14

Sermon Notes

To our members, dear friends and visitors:

You are an important part of the worship and ministry that goes on here and we are thankful for your presence. Please sign the attendance pads on the tables.  
Thank you!



GRADUATION SUNDAY – May 17, 2026

**Congratulations!**

**High School Graduates**

**Aidan Riley Blaney** – Graduating from Northridge High School  
Degree – Diploma

Parent and sibling: Andrea Blaney and Alisha Blaney-Sines  
Aidan is still deciding his future

Mom and sister are SO very proud of him and all that he's accomplished.

**Carter Hahn** – Graduating from Newark Catholic High School  
Degree – Diploma

Parents: Chris and Leslie Hahn

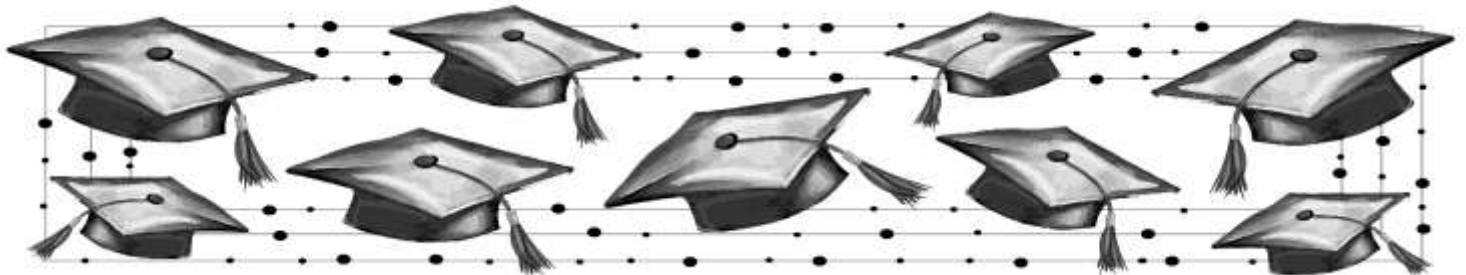
Carter will be attending Ohio Wesleyan University majoring in Business and will be a member of the Ohio Wesleyan University Men's Golf Team

**Casey Jacob Swartz** – Graduating from Utica High School  
Degree – Diploma

Mother: Brandy Swartz

Grandmother: Rebecca Swartz

Casey plans on welding in the future



\*OUR\*  
AMAZING  
Volunteers

Sunday School Volunteers

Emmaleigh Crowthers  
Marla Crowthers  
Rebekkah Crowthers  
Kayden Ewing  
Pat Farley  
Elaine Gard  
Frances Hill



Jeremy Hill  
Kayla Hill  
Carl Kochendorfer  
Brian Lensink  
Tim Powers  
Rebecca Swartz  
Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Media Volunteers

Mike Dooley (Church Sexton)  
Karson Ewing  
Ken Kroah

Julie Kroah  
Tom Lawyer

Acolytes

Karson Ewing  
Kayden Ewing  
Emmaleigh Crowthers

Remington Crowthers  
Paxton Hill

Ushers

Jeff Conner (Liturgist)  
Frank Davis  
Barry Dooley

Mike Dooley  
Terry Gano  
Gary Kinser

Thank you for all your help in the office!

Vicky Davis  
Frances & Terry Hill  
Julie Kroah

Jane Shoemaker  
Janet Snider  
Kim Workman

## St. Johns 2025-2026 Music Volunteers

“Special thanks to all who helped make beautiful music this  
past church year at Saint Johns.

All of us at St. Johns appreciate your dedication!”

Jeff Conner (Choir, Liturgist)  
Emmaleigh Crowthers (Choir, Bells)  
\*Julie Davis (Choir, Bells, Cantor)  
Mike Dooley (Sound, Sexton)  
Charles Dudley (Cantor, Choir)  
Elaine Everett (Choir)  
Jim Everett (Choir)  
Karson Ewing (Bells, Sound)  
Kayden Ewing (Choir, Bells)  
Pat Farley (Choir)  
Elaine Gard (Church Pianist substitute)  
Jerry Goodman (Choir, Bell Director)  
Jeremy Hill (Bells)  
Rayce Hill (Choir)  
April Kinser (Choir, Cantor)  
Julie Kroah (Sound)  
Ken Kroah (Bells)  
Colleen Kroah (Soloist)  
Matthew Kroah (Brass)  
\*Brian Lensink (Bells)  
Catherine Lim (Pianist)  
Charlie Mays (Choir)  
Johnny Pfeffer (Choir)  
Diane Reef (Choir, Cantor)  
\*Jane Shoemaker (Church Pianist, Bell Coordinator)  
Debi Snow (In Absentia)



\* **Leap of Faith member**





Donald M. Boldt  
Born: July 20, 1935  
Died: April 23, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1997

A Memorial Service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2026.  
There will be a reception to follow in Hermann Hall.

## Mission & Outreach

Mental Health Sunday is celebrated within the UCC on May 17, 2026. May is designated nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month and Mental Health America (MHA) has chosen the slogan "More Good Days Together" to emphasize the importance of community support and shared responsibility in promoting mental wellbeing. Mental Health is not only about individual care, but also about everyday interactions and support that helps others to have a more positive day. Consider what "a good day" means to you and let that foster connection, advocacy, and support for others. Ushers will be passing out positive message scripture cards for your use or to share with others.

From your Mission and Outreach Committee



**Strengthen  
the Church**

May 24, 2026, is Pentecost Sunday, a day when we celebrate the birth of the church. Please wear red that day (which is traditional to the celebration). We will collect a special offering within the UCC that day called "Strengthen the Church." This is our opportunity to build up the body of Christ. Funds are used to support leadership development, provide grants to new congregations, and equip youth and young adult ministry. Envelopes will be included in next week's bulletin. Thank you for your support of this outreach ministry.



## Understanding Pentecost

Led by Elaine Gard

**May 10 & 17 at 9:00AM**

(in the Large Meeting Room)



Have you ever wondered what Pentecost really means—and why it still matters today?

- Come explore the powerful moment when the Holy Spirit came, transforming lives and launching a movement that continues across the world.

*I will pour out my spirit on all people. Acts 2:17*

**Pentecost Sunday is May 24.**

**In celebration of the birthday of the church, plan to wear red.**



Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter (including Easter) that commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, marking the "birthday of the Church".

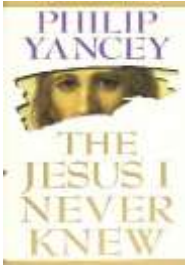
### ***St. John's Little Free Pantry***

**Take what you need. Give what you can.**



To replenish our food pantry every day we need your help every week. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church. Keep in mind that many of the people using this pantry have limited cooking facilities. Ollie's, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's are good places to find foods at good prices. Cans with pull tabs when possible and no glass containers! Thanks for your support! <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

## Book Study Group



The book study group meets every Thursday at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We will gather on May 21, and 28 at 11am to enjoy fellowship and conversation about our recent book selection. We are reading “The Jesus I Never Knew” by Philip Yancey. This book won the Gold Medallion Christian Book of the Year Award in 1996 and looks at Jesus Christ - his teachings, his miracles, and his death and resurrection. The book is available online. We would love to have you join us.

### ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – PRAYER LIST

OUR PRAYER LIST IS DEDICATED TO BEA PURSLEY, WHO LOVINGLY DEDICATED HER TIME TO OUR CHURCH MINISTRY AND PROVIDED THIS LIST FOR SEVERAL YEARS.



Bea's Blessings! will transition back to its original email prayer chain as of June 1, 2026, since we have been able to add the prayer chain list to our newer Constant Contact platform that we use for the bulletin preview and the monthly Chimes newsletter.

During May, we will list Bea's Blessings! prayer requests on both the back of the bulletin and on the email prayer chain in order to give you additional time to sign up for Bea's Blessings email list. We will then discontinue the bulletin version on June 1. Please fill out the Stay Connected form below to add your name to continue to receive Bea's Blessings! if you are not already on the list. This prayer list is for prayer concerns for anyone, like friends, neighbors, etc.

## stayCONNECTED

St. John's has many ways for you to stay up to date and connected with all the events and happenings.

*To add to or change your current requests, fill out the information below and drop it in the offering plate.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Preview: Email of the Sunday bulletin and special events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bea's Blessings: Emailed Prayer Circle including a wider network of requests.
- \_\_\_\_\_ One Call Now: A phone call for cancelations and special announcements.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Chimes newsletter delivered by mail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Chimes newsletter delivered electronically by email.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

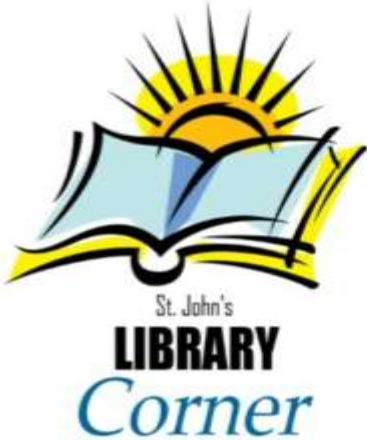


SEE ALSO

[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)



## Summer Reading Program!



Designed for **adults, teens, and kids**—because everyone needs a place to learn, connect, and be inspired. Whether you're diving into deeper study, exploring new stories, or reading with your child - discover the joy of reading.

**June through August**  
**New books arriving soon!**

Continue to let us know what books you are interested in by filling in the information below and drop in the collection plate or write it on the **NEW white board** in the Church Library.



Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested by: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, see our librarian Catherine Lim or email [stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net).

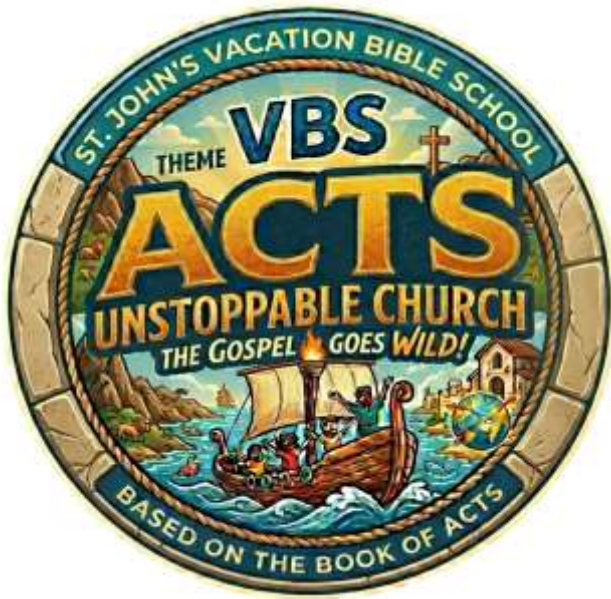
### *Finances for the Month and Year to Date*

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,869.52	38,181.33
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	46,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	15,033.32
Month & YTD Total Income	25,552.99	103,315.37
General Fund Expenses	23,936.03	101,811.19
<b>Over/Under Month &amp; YTD</b>	<b>\$ 1,616.96</b>	<b>\$ 1,504.18</b>



( ) = Negative

# St. John's United Church of Christ



Vacation Bible  
School

June 23 - 27

9:00AM—11:30-AM

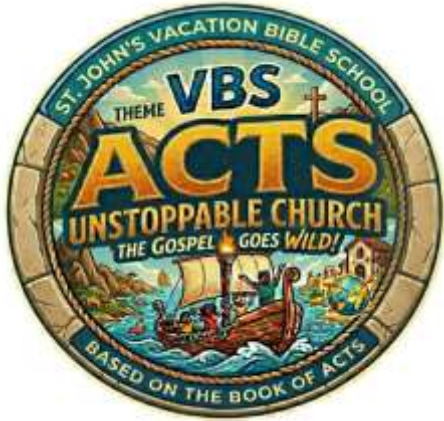
This year we will follow the leaders of the early church through their wild adventures unbelievable challenges!

Join us for a week filled with Bible stories, crafts, science, games, and FUN!

*Donations of vanilla pudding cups, pretzel rods, coco puffs, Oyster crackers, fruit roll-ups, goldfish crackers, red and blue Hawaiian punch are appreciated*

285 W. National Drive, Newark

740-323-2407 [www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)



ST. JOHN'S UCC

285 W. National Dr. Newark, OH 740-323-2407

Preschool through Sixth Grade

June 22 - 26, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

*In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached), please contact:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies (including food allergies) the VBS staff should be aware of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Photographs (Please sign only to disallow photo use)

I Do Not allow photographs and/or video representations of me or my child to be taken for the express purpose of telling stories about the church VBS experience and/ or promoting church activities in the future.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**General Prayers:** Charlie Bruah,  
Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout,  
Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha  
Boehmer, & Delores Williams.

**Church Members Homebound and Nursing  
Facility Residents:** Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert,  
Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly,  
Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham,  
Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Molly  
Sheets, Debi Snow, & Lois Meyers



**Additional prayer requests on Bea's  
Blessings:**

- Dennis Maddy – Rebecca Swartz's brother
- Bill Klinessmith, Jr. – Julie Kroah's brother -  
improving
- Rev. Harvey Antle – is home now after a stroke  
(Terry Hill's uncle in Kentucky)
- Ashley (Robin Green's Granddaughter) – Recent  
Lupus diagnosis
- Beth Crawford – has improved, moved to a long  
term care facility!
- Carly (Teresa McCoy's daughter)
- Calvin Campbell –shoulder surgery went well.
- Christina (Carolyn Igo's daughter) –  
Cancer diagnosis
- Mr. Ron Baker (Chuck Chirdon's father  
under Hospice Care)

Mrs. Barbara Swisher

**We Appreciate Those Serving Today!**

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Todd Baldosser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,  
Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Elaine Gard & Rebekkah Crowthers

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer

**THIS WEEK'S GLANCE**



**Sunday: May 17, 2026**  
**Graduation &  
Appreciation Sunday**  
8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service  
9:00 am BDZ Classes  
10:30 am Sanctuary Service  
10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone -  
Children's Church

**Monday:**  
6:30pm Church Council Meeting

**Wednesday:**  
6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

**Thursday:**  
11:00 am Thursday Book Study, THE  
JESUS I NEVER KNEW by  
Phillip Yancey at River  
Road Coffee on the Square

**Saturday:**  
11:00 am Don Boldt Funeral

**Sunday: May 24, 2026**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service  
10:30 am Sanctuary Service  
10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone -  
Children's Church

Live streaming is now available on Facebook. If you missed the Live stream, you can watch a replay anytime on our YouTube or Facebook pages. Links for both of these sites can be found on our church website at [www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

*Attendance Report for Sunday, May 10, 2026*  
8:00 a.m. - 27                      10:30 a.m. – 56  
Sunday, May 10 Live Stream Views – 217

Thank you for your continued support! In addition to your giving in person, by drop off, by mail, or by clicking on the donate button on the website, you can also scan this QR Code. We continue to find new ways to connect with our members and our community that are convenient, secure, helpful, and relevant to the ways in which some people prefer to donate. We thank God for our ability to offer these methods for those who may choose to use them.



Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9am –12 pm. Please call the office 740-323-2407 and leave a message to make any additional appointments. Thank you!